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Residents get arena project preview

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills residents got a glimpse of what a new arena and renovated community centre could look like earlier this week, and Minden Hills approved additional funding for what is being referred to as the “validation phase” of the project, that phase essentially being a series of engineering assessments of the current structure.

During a Dec. 13 council meeting, a motion came before councillors to extend the letter of intent between the township and the “integrated project delivery team,” which consists of McDonald Brothers Construction Ltd. and Parkin Architects Limited. That extension was to approve increased funding for the “validation phase” of the project. In September, the previous council approved \$140,000 for the completion of the validation phase, with Councillor Pam Sayne voting against the motion in a recorded vote. Sayne has expressed concern throughout the process that the project was being awarded to a lone bidder.

The motion before council at the Dec. see ARENA page 2



Fun on ice
Haliburton's Pat Casey, left, and daughter Kiera were among more than a dozen people who got out for the public skate on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. See more on page 11. / DARRON LUM Staff

Trudeau, Monsef, call in to AH council

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

A phone call to Algonquin Highlands council from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister for the Status of Women Maryam Monsef was celebrated with a round of applause after it occurred at a Dec. 13 council meeting.

Trudeau and Monsef called to congratulate the council – Mayor Carol Moffatt, Deputy Mayor Liz Daniels and councillors Julia Shortreed, Lisa Barry and Jennifer Dailloux – on being one of the only all-women coun-

cils in Ontario’s history.

“I think it’s terrific that he did that,” said Moffatt, noting the call and reason for it is a non-partisan issue. “It’s simply the leader of our country reaching out to a small community to acknowledge a milestone in municipal government or in government in general.”

Moffatt said the call, which was about 10 minutes long, was easygoing and friendly.

She said that although she had written some notes, she didn’t rely on them during the discussion, in which she said she took the opportunity to get a plug in for the area’s partnership with the Trent-Severn Waterway

and the issue of water levels.

“He asked what our biggest issue might be and I replied that the environmental and lake stewardship of our 600 lakes was vital as it touches every aspect of our economy and lifestyle,” said Moffatt later on social media. “...The PM touched on his paddling trips in Algonquin, the important role of women in government, and called us trail-blazers. We all agreed that we hope for a time when the gender make-up of a council doesn’t matter.”

During the phone call, Monsef and Dailloux, who have worked together in their see COUNCIL page 11



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An architectural rendering of what a new arena in Minden could look like. The proposed project that was presented at a Dec. 17 open house would cost \$12 million.

Arena project estimate now nearly \$12 million

*New Year's Eve
Family Skate!*
at the SG Nesbitt Arena

Monday December 31st
6:00pm-8:00pm

Take a break from skating and enjoy a hot chocolate, popcorn and a roasted marshmallow over the fire. No cost!

Please note: Skates are not provided



from page 1

13 meeting was to approve up to another \$140,000 for the completion of the validation phase, upping the spending ceiling for that part of the project to \$280,000. A staff report from community services director Mark Coleman showed that expenses for the completion of the validation phase were expected to cost \$252,000.

“Basically, this is the continuation of the investigation process to find the technical elements of the building that [the township] currently owns, along with the liabilities associated with it,” said Mayor Brent Devolin. “It’s a lot of money, it’s hundreds of thousands of dollars you’re spending to get to that, but in the absence of it, there’s no other way.”

The total estimate for the project has jumped from the \$10-million figure that was included in McDonald Brothers’ response to the RFP, to nearly \$12 million. McDonald Brothers was the sole company to respond to the township’s request for proposals for the project, and in July, the previous council approved, in principle, an expenditure of up to \$10 million for the project, but no contract has been signed.

An initial estimate from the township for a renewal of the facility presented in October of 2016 was \$6.5 million.

Councillor Bob Carter wondered why the township would proceed with the work if the final project cost was more than some members of council were comfortable with.

“If the number is now \$11.95 million, which is about 24 per cent more than it was, and this is just a hypothetical, if that \$12 million is not palatable to me, right now, why would I spend this \$112,000, why would I OK this \$112,000?” Carter asked. “Because, it doesn’t really matter, if I get this report and it’s still the \$12 million, and it’s still not palatable, then why would we do that?”

“

I think we need to finish it [the validation phase] to really see what our options are.

— Mayor Brent Devolin

“I think we need to finish it to really see what our options are,” said Devolin, who also said that it was his understanding that the life expectancy for the arena, constructed in 1972, was “at or near zero.”

A report is scheduled to come before council in January, and that at that point, Coleman said, councillors could make decisions about alterations to the proposed project in order to lower its cost.

“You may choose, at that time, to cut certain parts of the project off, which may trim \$2 million, or whatever,” he said. “You may not choose to do everything that this project has evolved to, or you may choose to do everything.”

Devolin asked council if they’d be more comfortable making the decision after they heard a presentation from the construction and architectural firms involved during a Dec. 17 open house, and a special meeting of council was then scheduled for Dec. 19.

At the Dec. 19 meeting, Carter wanted it made crystal clear that proceeding with the rest of the validation phase did not commit council to any further work on the project.

Coleman said when a report regarding the project comes back to council in January, council can choose to do what it wants with the project, including altering its scope, or stopping it altogether.

“If you don’t agree with the price, or you don’t agree with the design, or any reason, for that matter,” Coleman said. “[Council] could pause, they could stop it outright, they could terminate it outright.”

“So, council could say, well, this is no longer \$9.6 million, or the gym isn’t big enough, or whatever it is, and we could stop everything at that time?” Carter said.

“Correct,” said Coleman.

“Absolutely,” said Devolin.

Councillor Pam Sayne expressed concern that Minden Hills could not afford a \$12-million project, saying she’d done the math on a \$12-million loan with four per cent interest, and that it amounted to monthly payments of \$57,000, for 30 years. Councillor Jennifer Hughey said she would have appreciated seeing the information and property tax implications that were presented to members of the public during the Dec. 17 open house beforehand, as she was approached by residents about it immediately following the meeting.

More than 100 residents made their way to the community centre for the Dec. 17 open house, where Mario Pistone, a vice president with Parkin Architects Limited, gave them an overview of the proposed project.

see CURRENT page 3

Current arena will need to be demolished



Mario Pistone of Parkin Architects Limited, right, speaks to Minden Hills residents during a Dec. 17 open house. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

from page 2

The main reason for the large jump in the project's cost is that it's been determined that the current S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will need to be demolished, and the cost of the new arena is estimated at \$8.2 million. The cost for the construction of a gym with elevated walking track is estimated at \$2.9 million; renovations to the existing community centre \$400,000; and landscaping, including the creation of a parking lot with separated pedestrian and vehicular areas, is estimated at \$300,000.

Pistone reviewed studies that have been done on the arena in the past, one that was completed 17 years after the arena was constructed. Pistone said that report showed that chloride salts were used in the mortar mix in the building, "and as a result of the introduction of those salts into the concrete, it led to a premature degradation of the block, and led to corrosion in the steel. And those are legacies that are still evident."

A 2014 report by engineering consulting firm Greer Galloway included an estimate of \$2.4 million for repairs to the arena, but, Pistone said, addressed mostly surface issues.

"Their report was based primarily on visual inspection," Pistone said. "They did not have opportunities to get into inaccessible spaces, to dig into the foundation, and to look at some of the more hidden conditions surrounding the structure."

"It was just a cost estimate to stretch out a few more years of the existing building," he said.

The validation phase has included structural engineering assessments that, Pistone said, have shown the arena's foundation would be unable to handle the scope of the reconstruction.

"The key to this, is can the foundation support the additional roof load that's required by changes in the building code, by changes in the building systems, where we're adding insulation, adding building components on the roof, and can that structure support the additional loads of the roof and walls, again, changes in the building code called 'high importance,' that require walls to be more resistant to wind forces," Pistone said.

"Construction practice was not up to what the expectation was," Pistone continued. "We have examples of columns that aren't sitting

see LARGER page 8

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COUNCIL MEETINGS
Jan 24 - 9:00 AM, combined COTW/Council Meeting, Minden Council Chambers
For the 2019 schedule of Council meetings, visit www.mindenhill.ca
Please Note: Council meetings are reduced to one meeting during the month of January.

SNOW REMOVAL AND WINTER PARKING
From Nov 1st to Apr 30th, overnight parking is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Bylaw staff would like to remind residents that restrictions on snow removal and street parking are in effect during these months. To avoid your vehicle being towed, please do not leave vehicles or trailers parked or standing on a public roadway, cul-de-sac or dead end road.
As well, please consider the safety of others and do not deposit snow on public roadways. This could create an unsafe situation for drivers and interfere with traffic movement and snow removal efforts.

WINTER SAND AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE
Is available at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena parking lot, 55 Parkside Street for residential use.
Please note this is for Individual Use Only – No Commercial Users Please.

REQUEST FOR TENDERS
The Roads Department is seeking bids from qualified contractors for the following:
• RFT #RDS 18-07 - 2019 Resurfacing
• RFP #18-06 - One (1) New 2019/2020 Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis with Spreader Dump Body and Snow Plow Equipment
Submission Deadline is January 17, 2019 by 12:00 noon.
Visit www.mindenhill.ca/tenders/ for more information.

FROM ALL THE STAFF AT THE MINDEN HILL CULTURAL CENTRE
We wish our community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will see you starting January 2nd, 2019 for another year of great programming. Follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/mindenculturalcentre/> for all our events.

Seasons Greetings
From the Township of Minden Hills
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Administration Office
Dec 17th to Dec 21st 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th to Jan 1st, 2019
Regular hours resume Jan 2nd, 2019

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery
CLOSED Dec 23rd
Regular hours resume Jan 2nd, 2019

Landfills
All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25th & Jan 1st

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena
Dec 24th 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM
CLOSED Dec 25th & 26th
Dec 27th – 28th Call Arena for hours
CLOSED Jan 1st

Community Services Department
Administration Office
Hours of Operation:
Dec 17th to Dec 21st 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
CLOSED Dec 24th to Jan 1st, 2019
Regular hours resume Jan 2nd, 2019

WINTER IN THE WOODS KID'S CAMP
January 2nd-4th
from 10am – 1pm
Minden Hills Museum
Age 7 & Up \$6 per day
WEDNESDAY GAMES, FELTING A LANDSCAPE & MAKING A KEYCHAIN
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Visit www.mindenhill.ca for more information.

RIVERWALK & WETLANDS BOARDWALK – WINTER USAGE
The Boardwalk & Logger's Crossing Bridge are cleared of snow regularly but are not sanded or salted. Residents are advised to "Exercise Caution" when using these pathways as they could develop slippery conditions.

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Thursday December 27th 12:00pm–2:00pm
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Friday December 28th 4:00pm–6:00pm.
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Saturday December 29th 4:00pm–6:00pm
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Thursday January 3rd 12:00pm–2:00pm
Sponsored by Tim Hortons

Friday January 4th 1:00pm–3:00pm
Sponsored by Karen Nimigon, Century 21 Granite Realty Grp. Ltd

Saturday January 5th 4:00pm- 6:00pm
Sponsored by Tim Hortons

Minden Hills looks at short-term rental regs

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills council will look at a licensing system for short-term rental accommodations within the township.

During a Dec. 13 meeting, councillors received the results of a survey that was undertaken in the fall. After a July open house regarding short-term rentals, such as those advertised through websites such as airBnB, the township issued a survey that was open from mid-September to mid-October. The survey garnered 420 responses, representing a high response rate for Minden Hills.

"That is the second-most-responded-to survey the township has had," said planner Ian Clendening, explaining the first-most-responded-to survey had been the one the township issued regarding renewal options for the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Of survey respondents, 77 per cent identified as waterfront property owners, either seasonal or year-round.

"This represents a response rate of 10 per cent for all residential waterfront properties, when you consider, for a voluntary

response, that is phenomenal," said Clendening. The majority of respondents – some 75 per cent – were supportive of the concept of short-term rentals.

"Predominantly, it's yes, but with limitations and regulations," Clendening said. Examples of those sorts of regulations include limiting the number of nights per year that dwellings can be rented out; limiting the number of occupants per rental; setting minimum lot sizes/frontages; or establishing separation distances between rental dwellings.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the most negative feedback to short-term rentals came from respondents who identified as neighbours of short-term rental properties.

"The people who were most vociferously against short-term rental are those neighbours, and I think that speaks to the issue of regulation or bylaw enforcement, in some capacity," Clendening said. "The issues are, in all honesty, things we have bylaws for – noise, etc., etc."

If the identified issues weren't things prohibited by municipal bylaws, they were those prohibited by provincial law, such as drinking and boating.

Councillor Jean Neville said she thought it was unfair that short-term renters were being labelled, when property owners,

or in some cases the children of property owners, cause similar issues.

Councillor Pam Sayne said the township should be looking at those who rent out their properties on a regular basis, not just for a week or two a year.

"I don't consider that a commercial operation," Sayne said. "I think what we're trying to get at there are those commercial endeavours."

Councillor Bob Carter, who is also president of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization, said the No. 1 issue with short-term rentals is the strain they put on septic systems, ones that are often not up to the task, thereby posing a threat to lake health.

"They've very small, old cottages, they probably have inadequate septic systems," Carter said, adding that sometimes up to 18 people will stay in one cottage, where renters are often required to do the laundry before they go. "They're running seven loads of washing through, overloading the septic systems."

"I'm for the allowing of the short-term rentals, but if you're going to do it, then you have to prove you have a facility that's capable of doing it," Carter said.

A staff report will come back to council.

Website offers info on non-emergency medical services

For those looking for non-emergency medical help over the holidays, the website CentralEastHealthLine.ca is an online resource with information on services that are open and available across the region.

The holiday hours page lists hours of service, contact numbers and maps for walk-in clinics, urgent care centres, pharmacies with extended hours and crisis intervention assistance.

This online resource helps inform people of resources other than emergency departments available during statutory holidays.

"With the holiday season approaching, we know the perennial surge increases hospital volumes by as much as 15 per cent. These increased volumes affect emergency and acute care services at all of our hospitals and other community service providers as they contend with an influx of patients with non-emergency health care needs. This can lead to overcrowding and longer wait times. We encourage members of the public to access CentralEastHealthLine.ca when they are looking for non-emergency medical services over the holidays," said Stewart Sutley, interim chief executive officer of the Central East LHIN, in a press release.

Man charged with resisting peace officer

Haliburton Highlands OPP charged a 45-year-old man with alcohol-related offences as well as resisting a peace officer on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Police say an officer saw a vehicle stopped in a live lane of traffic on County Road 503 in Minden Hills at about 7 p.m.

The officer stopped to help and found the driver had previously been drinking. During the investigation, the driver was uncooperative.

As a result, the man, who resides in Palmer Rapids, was arrested and charged with care or control of a vehicle while impaired, care or control of a vehicle with more than 80 mgs of alcohol in 100 ml of blood and resisting a peace officer.

The man is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Feb. 6 to answer to the charges.

Laurie Scott, MPP
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
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Merry Christmas!

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Sign of the season

Some Minden residents got into the Christmas spirit with gusto. This house is on Bobcaygeon Road in town. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Rink about it

ON MONDAY NIGHT, Minden Hills residents got a preliminary, conceptual snapshot of what a new arena and revitalized community centre might look like during a presentation by reps of the architectural and construction firms involved in what has been labelled the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena renewal project.

And the plans look impressive, the drawings sleek, the facility state of the art. But there are a few glaring issues that Minden Hills councillors must resolve before forging ahead with any project that will likely represent the greatest single capital investment in the history of the township.

The first is of course the price and, contingent upon that, just what the township will be getting for that price. Two years ago, the figure that was presented to the public by the township for what was “Option B” on a township-issued survey – an option that was more than a renovation of the facility but less than the construction of a new one – was \$6.5 million. Earlier this year, the township issued a request for proposals for the project, and council agreed, in principle, essentially (no contract has yet been signed), that it would give that job to the sole bidder for an estimated price tag of \$10 million. That price tag has now grown to an estimated \$12 million, as the proposed project includes a completely new arena and a gymnasium that would also be a new addition. That is an incredibly substantial expense for a small municipality, one that at least one member of council feels the township cannot bear, and the debenture would be put on the backs of taxpayers

for 30 years. Ability to pay, and comfortably pay, must be taken into very serious consideration by council.

Another consideration is the composition of the facility itself, and whether it truly, and equitably, addresses the community’s needs. At \$12 million, we are getting into a price zone that, at least a number of years ago, could have created a facility with some kind of aquatic component. It seems pretty clear that this particular project will not include a pool.

A huge flaw with the proposal presented on Monday night was the size of the gymnasium. As one pickle ball player noted, it had been reduced in size from what was in the plan initially; in pickle ball terms, from four to three pickle ball courts. In non-pickle ball terms, it has been reduced from a full-sized gymnasium, like one would see in a school, to one that is too small to house a basketball court. To spend \$12 million on a facility that has a gymnasium that is too small to truly be a multi-sport space would be incredibly shortsighted.

Meanwhile, the size of the ice pad would grow from 185 to 200 feet, and six new change rooms, each built to house 25 adults, would be constructed; that’s to accommodate two incoming hockey teams, two on the ice, and two who’ve just finished playing. The proposal as it sits prioritizes hockey above all else, and it shouldn’t, since the entire community, not just hockey families, will pay for the project.

This project can be a gleaming legacy, or it can be a 30-year blight. That will be up to council.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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Kwarky



“Wrong turn, Rudolph!”

What to get a retriever who has everything

NOW THAT CHRISTMAS is almost here, most normal people are in panic mode because they have not completed their Christmas shopping.

Well, this year, for the first time, I am proud to admit I’m one of the abnormal ones.

Strangely enough, when I declared this to Jenn, she agreed and then added, “But at least you’ve got all your Christmas shopping done.”

I didn’t have the heart to tell her that this was not quite true. There is still one member of the family I have not bought a gift for yet – our Labrador retriever Millie.

She’s difficult to buy for.

For one thing, she has everything a retriever could ask for. She has a selection of couches to sleep on, a shiny food and water bowl, a variety of “indestructible” toys to destroy and two cats to chase.

Clearly, she has it all. Except, that is, the one thing she can’t have – a mallard duck of her own.

Let’s be clear. I’m not the one raining on her parade. I won’t name names but there is a certain someone in our household (rhymes with pen) who has a strict “no live mallards in the house” policy.

Restrictive? Tell me about it.

Quite frankly, I think it is unfair.

Retrieving mallards and other ducks is what retrievers dream of. It’s what they wish they were doing when they are not eating your socks, barking at snowplows or stealing cake from the counter.

I would go so far as to say duck wrangling is part of their higher education.

With that in mind, would you refuse to buy books for your children?

The answer is no, of course.

Admittedly, books don’t leave droppings on the floor, beg for bread, live in the bathtub, respond loudly every time you blow into a duck call or attempt to migrate south through the front window.

Maybe so, but I happen to think all that’s a small price to pay for having a well rounded retriever.

You’d think that the person I’m speaking of (starts with J) would see that we could make one Labrador retriever very happy if she could retrieve and then open her present on Christmas morning. It’s not like we use the bathtub a lot.

I have even made concessions. My initial idea was to buy Millie a whole flock.

Still, someone in this house (in case you haven’t yet guessed, it’s Jenn) refuses to

allow it.

As a result, I am going to have to think of some other gift for Millie.

I could buy her another collar but that’s the canine equivalent of buying your dad a neck tie, which is not exactly exciting. And, if I bought her a pack of sow’s ears she would immediately know that I hadn’t put much thought into it. (Who says, “I know the perfect gift, sow’s ears?”)

Worse still, she’d probably feel obliged to share.

No, a live mallard drake really would have been the perfect gift for Millie. But Jenn probably has a valid reason – though I can’t think of it at the moment – for not wanting a duck in the house. So I will respect that.

I wonder if a goose would do.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

O Holy Night!

MANY CHRISTMAS EVES have passed since the one years ago when I heard the voice of an angel. It was a voice I can never forget; a voice that gave me the best Christmas present ever. Fresh-fallen snow protested beneath my gumboots breaking trail down the unplowed lane as I walked home that Christmas Eve. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk scrapped against too clean a blackboard.

Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle deep snow.

From each side of the lane, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the back-sides of the bungalows, dropped there by an impatient blizzard just passed through. Their crests were indistinguishable against the white stucco walls but nearly reached tufted piles of fluffy snow clinging nervously to windowsills and eaves-trough lips.

The squeaks flew through the still night air, dodging fat snowflakes that fell heavily onto my cap bill, occasionally splashing into my face, flushed warm from the walk.

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window.

I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and smoke rose together into an icy sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of stars and the frosty moon.

The music was the Christmas carol "O Holy Night," and the notes came from the window in my grandmother's room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then and cracked a window at gatherings to thin the smoke. They sang the first verse, and, when they reached the seventh line, the other voices ceased and a single voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii ... iiight Diii...vine!"

That's the part where the voice rises higher and higher until the singer reaches a stratospheric note.

The solo voice belonged to Louise LaFrance, my grandmother, and I knew she was hitting that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that had been her prison for 16 years. She was crippled with limb-twisting rheumatoid arthritis and suffered searing pain and the humiliation of being bedridden, a humiliation that included needing a bedpan to relieve herself and having her son-in-law lift her into the bathtub.

She had taken up smoking to help ease the pain but had trouble holding a cigarette between her gnarled fingers.

She never complained or questioned why she had to bear the pain, and despite her frailty, she was a leader in our house. We brought our problems to her. When we hurt, we ran to her and she draped her twisted arms around us and absorbed our pain because she believed it was better that she have it than us.

The others had stopped singing to listen to her. A shiver danced on my spine the second time she hit the high notes at the words "O Night Divine."

When she finished singing "O Holy Night," the other voices started up again, this time with "Silent Night" and other favourite carols.

I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants — my mom, dad, and some neighbours — crowded into the 10-by-10 bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and my mother.

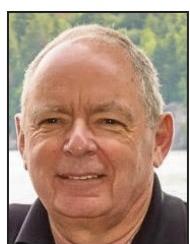
After the singing ended my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard and devoured as only a teenager can. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts.

I have long forgotten what I got, and it doesn't matter, because my real gift was the understanding that those high notes were not solely the products of my grandmother's lungs.

They came from a strength far beyond anything that mere human flesh can produce. They were high notes driven by something far stronger — an unbreakable spirit.

It was my grandmother's last Christmas. But the memory of her high notes and unbreakable spirit brings her back every Christmas.

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Profile: <http://www.amazon.com/-e/B001K8FY3Y>



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

letters to the editor

Amalgamation not the answer

To the Editor,

Efficiency or democracy? That is the question. In his Dec. 6 editorial in this newspaper, my good friend Chad Ingram is most eloquent in his argument for doing away with our township governments and putting our future exclusively in the hands of a single-tier county government. Trouble is, I don't agree with him. I believe that each step toward ever-larger government units is profoundly anti-democratic.

One of the best things about living in a small community is that it's easy to get the attention of the politicians and bureaucrats whose decisions matter to you. Chances are you are personally acquainted with at least one of those politicians and that he or she will listen to your opinions. Chances are all of the politicians have intimate knowledge of the lives and landscapes their decisions will affect.

If Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al., Highlands East and Minden Hills disappear, how many members of an amalgamated county council will understand the history and hopes of, say, Cardiff, as well as the old Highlands East council did? How many will ever have driven up Minden's Scotch Line hill? How many will be my acquaintances?

I walk into my township office to ask about getting some kind of permit and, if the person serving me doesn't recognize me, likely somebody else in the office will, and eavesdrop until they are sure I have had my questions answered. That's the essence of living in a small town, the very reason we choose to live here, the essence of democracy. As government jurisdictions expand, the feeling of being connected fades away.

Amalgamations have been gobbling up townships across Ontario for a couple of decades now, and each gobble is accompanied by promises that it will make things work better. Ask the folks of rural Kawartha Lakes how they feel about those promises, about how well amalgamation has worked for them, about the efficiency of closing down their libraries and volunteer fire departments.

Chad argues that each of our little governmental units, our townships, find themselves dealing with the same questions and that amalgamation will lead to county-wide consistency on how they are resolved. That assumes that consistency

is always a good thing, that there is only one solution to any issue, that it will work as well for Algonquin Highlands as for Dysart, that their councils will reach the same conclusion, that folks who live in each township will want the same solution.

Single-tier would go even further than we have already in turning municipal politics into a full-time job, leaving the kind of community leaders who once volunteered to serve their neighbours now watching from the sidelines and make running for elected office an expensive proposition.

But suppose Chad is correct in all his arguments, that townships are "inefficient and redundant and archaic," that their continued existence leads to a patchwork of inconsistent policies. Well, our topography is a patchwork. And if our township boundaries tend to be artificial, so do county lines. Politicians just over the line in Kawartha Lakes and Hastings and Muskoka confront the same problems that puzzle our township councils.

So if amalgamation is the answer, why settle for a lonely county government? Haliburton already works with Kawartha Lakes on many issues; why not turn our county into a ward of that City next door? But why stop there? Give Muskoka and Parry Sound a call. The Regional Municipality of Trillium Lakelands – there's the ticket. Send all our redundant policies and politicians packing.

Sorry, Chad! I just extended and exaggerated your argument the least little bit. As for me, I'm glad to still be able to write that I live in the Township of Minden Hills.

Neil Campbell
Minden

Thanks, Dr. Hill

To the Editor,

I want to thank Dr. Hill. He's a wonderful doctor. Thank you!

Annmarie Budz

County youth hub needs donations

Don't know what to give the person who has everything this holiday season?

Give a gift in their name to The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub Capital Campaign!

Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub – providing an inclusive and welcoming space for all youth aged 12-25 in our community – is a much needed resource that will reduce the isolation experienced by our youth population, engage them in a meaningful way in the community, and enable seamless and coordinated access to a range of supports including mental health and addictions.

Renovations to Hali's Youth Hub include making the building accessible (including stair lifts and washrooms) requiring substantial rebuild, a small commercial kitchen, creating multi-functional space upstairs for cooking classes, music and art workshops,

and peer-to-peer support opportunities; and downstairs counselling and quiet spaces.

Help purchase appropriate equipment, furniture and fixtures to complete the space. Direct your contribution towards the purchase of specific items, or if you prefer, make a general donation to the project.

<https://www.pointintime.ca/gift-registry/>

The majority of the generous three-year funding from Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario and the Haliburton County Development Corporation will go toward the operating and staffing expenses to provide a broad range of services and supports delivered in an integrated fashion.

For more information visit
<https://www.pointintime.ca/youthhaliburton-youth-wellness-hub/>.

- Submitted

Larger rink, six change rooms part of plan

from page 3

properly on the piers . . . piers that are not sitting wholly on the foundation."

"When we dug up and exposed the foundation, we found, again, the mortar had rotted away, the original foundation is the contaminated block, and deteriorating," he said.

The proposed new arena would use a pre-engineered, frameless structure, "effectively a load-bearing wall, in corrugated steel," Pistone said, explaining these types of structures have an elevated R-value. R-values measure a material's conductive heat flow; they are used to rank the insulating effectiveness of materials. Higher R-values reduce energy consumption.

"So, as a result of going with this frameless structure, we're able to get a higher performing building," Pistone said.

The plan for the arena includes a 200-foot-long rink (the current rink is 185 feet long), bleachers, and six change rooms, as well as space for the new ice plant. At one point during the meeting, a resident asked why six change rooms were necessary. Pistone explained it was to allow for two incoming teams, two teams on the ice surface, and two departing teams. The project includes new accessible washrooms for the arena, and for the current cluster of washrooms and change rooms to be transformed into administrative space for the community services department.



There was a large crowd at the Minden Hills Community Centre for a Dec. 17 open house regarding the arena project. / CHAD INGRAM Staff

The project includes a long list of energy efficiency and accessibility upgrades from the current facility, including connecting the community centre and arena, which are currently not linked in an accessible way, with an elevator.

A gymnasium that can be used for pickle ball, a sport popular with the community's senior population, and other activities is to be outfitted with an elevated walking track around its circumference. Currently, such activities take place within

the community centre space. One resident, a pickle ball player, noted that the plan had gone from including four pickle ball courts to three.

At one point, the cost estimate for the project had exceeded the \$12-million mark, and some changes were made in an attempt to drive the expense back down.

"Basically, we had a high-school-sized gym," said Patrick Brousseau of McDonald Brothers. "So, we wanted to give you, the community, a NCAA-style basketball area, so you could have multiple sports. But the budget was \$12.5 million."

"Unfortunately, the easy stuff is to cut," Brousseau continued. "Yes, we did cut back on the pickle ball, but the arena got a little bigger. Why? Why? Everybody says why. Why? The 200-foot rink had nothing to do with it. What happened was, during the validation phase, we found out that the frameless building system that we were recommending . . . it's corrugated metal . . . and partway through the evaluation we found out we could offer one more metre, or two, to the arena, and it would decongest the players exiting the change rooms behind the dasher board."

Brousseau said this change would also improve viewing for spectators watching a game from the second level.

"When we modelled it, we realized that we were squeezing it too much, and we realized that we needed to expand the viewing, the experience as a spectator . . . a lot of people forget that," he said. "It's all about playing, playing, playing, but how about the parents that are watching their kids play. How about that?"

There were questions and some criticisms from residents, with some noting the absence of a pool from what had become a \$12-million project. A pool had been a No. 1 priority of many people who undertook a survey regarding recreational needs early in the process.

As he has in the past, Devolin reiterated the high cost of the construction, maintenance and operation of a pool, saying he wasn't aware of any communities the size of Minden Hills that had constructed a pool within the last 20 years. When a critic responded with reference to Bracebridge, where a number of local families travel to use an indoor pool, Devolin responded that Bracebridge had 10 times the population, and probably 10 times the assessment base of Minden. He noted the Pinestone makes its pool available for public use, and suggested that it might be difficult in Haliburton County to find a sufficient number of lifeguards to staff a pool.

One resident asked what the property tax implications of building the facility would be.

Minden Hills chief administrative officer and treasurer Lorrie Blanchard had done some calculations. As Blanchard explained, she did those calculations based on the assumption that the township would borrow \$12 million on a 30-year debenture. She based the property tax increase on a house assessed at \$300,000. With a two-year phase-in, property taxes on that house would increase by \$30 for 2019, and then by another \$30 in 2020. The increase would then remain at that level for the length of the debenture. That figure is separate from whatever other tax increase council might pass in a given year.

"And that's showing it in its most negative light," Devolin said, adding that was assuming the township received no grants to help with the project, and did not count for any community fundraising that may take place.

Coleman said there were some limited grant opportunities. The township currently has a \$1 million accessibility grant request pending, and it's expected it will hear back about getting some or all of that funding early in the new year.

Construction on the project would begin in April of 2019 and, if all goes according to plan, be complete in August of 2020, in time for the 2020/2021 ice season.



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County, townships opt in on marijuana stores

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County council, along with the councils of its lower-tier municipalities, has opted in to allowing marijuana stores within its boundaries, and asked staff to produce a municipal cannabis policy statement.

Cannabis became legal across Canada in October, and in Ontario, the provincial government is selling marijuana by mail, while allowing private retailers to set up physical stores. Those stores will be able to open in April of 2019. Municipalities were given a deadline of Jan. 22 to decide if they wanted to opt out of allowing marijuana stores within their boundaries.

"Really, the only way to stop a retail store from setting up shop in your municipality is the opt-out option," said Haliburton County planner Charlsey White during a Dec. 12 county council meeting.

The only setback that has been established by the provincial government is that marijuana retail outlets must be located a minimum of 150 metres from schools. Municipalities can create municipal cannabis policy statements, "which could outline other sensitive uses that are in existence within your municipality," White said. These could be facilities such as those for mental health addiction treatment, for example.

However, ultimately any setbacks or additional regulations are not the purview of municipalities, but of the province, which is the licensing body.

"It's not an additional setback, but it's a municipality saying to the province, we have concerns about X, Y and Z," White said. Retail shops will be able to open as of April 1.

White will create a draft municipal canna-

bis policy statement; one that will also likely be used by the county's lower-tier townships. During discussions about the legalization of marijuana, it's been mentioned several times at the county council table that the four townships should take a unified approach, and Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said the four townships have been working together through the county's community policing advisory committee.

"It's been in the last few months, difficult to decipher all of the information," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin. Details from the province have been rolled out in a sort of piecemeal fashion, and municipal politicians have had numerous questions about funding, what level of government would be responsible for enforcement, and so on.

"In my mind, it's become clear . . . in terms of control and cost recovery, that really the only way is to opt in," Devolin said.

Municipal councils that opt in to allowing marijuana retail stores within their boundaries will receive some provincial funding to assist with associated costs. However, with a total of \$40 million over two years for 440 municipalities in the province, the funding municipal governments do receive will be relatively modest.

A point of consternation for many politicians, as well as health units, is that the areas where cannabis is allowed to be consumed are taken directly from the Smoke Free Ontario Act, which has been used to regulate the smoking of tobacco. Marijuana can legally be consumed anywhere tobacco can legally be consumed, despite the fact that marijuana, unlike tobacco, is a mind-altering substance that can impact people in the vicinity of the smoker.

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy wondered if there was a deadline by which a

municipal cannabis policy statement needed to be completed.

"The policy statement is fluid," White responded. "I would recommend writing it now, and then it can be updated, once we run into some sort of concern."

Had county council decided to not allow marijuana retail outlets within the county, it would have meant the four lower-tier townships would have automatically also opted out.

The following day, at a Dec. 13 meeting, Minden Hills council opted in to permitting marijuana retail stores in Minden Hills. In the case of Minden, the provincial setback means that no marijuana shops could be located along the stretch of Bobcaygeon Road near Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Outside of that, planner Ian Clendening told councillors the provincial legislation dictates that municipalities cannot create separate zones for marijuana retail; they can set up in any commercially zoned area.

"You cannot discriminate retail from retail,"

Clendening said. "This is a retail outlet."

Devolin told councillors that locally, work around policy regarding cannabis was going to be handled at the county level.

"They're going to help us collectively to do it, to apply labour efforts, so we don't have to fully evolve that by ourselves in a silo," he said.

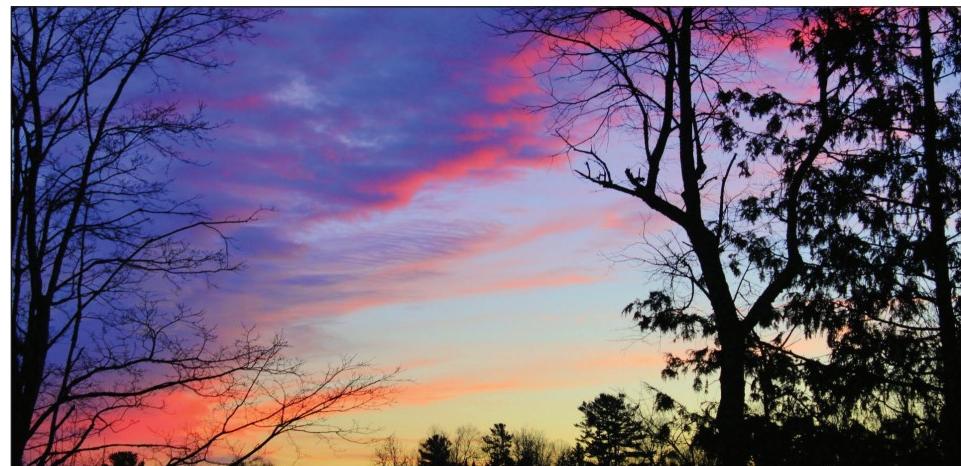
Councillor Bob Carter said it was his understanding that marijuana retail outlets would have a limited scope of permitted wares.

"One of these stores becomes extremely limited in what they are allowed to sell, is that correct?" he asked.

"That is correct," said Clendening, adding his understanding was that marijuana outlets could basically sell cannabis, marijuana paraphernalia and carrying bags.

"If this is the way we're going to go . . . personally, I don't like it," said Councillor Ron Nesbitt.

Dysart et al, Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands councils have also opted in to allowing marijuana retail outlets.



Maple Lake sunset, Sunday, Dec. 16. Photo by Marty Schuster

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Council ready to get to work

from page 1

humanitarian work efforts in Afghanistan, were also able to share a hello and express interest in reuniting in the future.

"They had a great conversation about women in politics, their priorities for their upcoming term, and the impacts of climate change on the Trent-Severn Waterway," Braeson Holland, press secretary, Office of the Minister of Status of Women, told the *Times* of the phone call.

Moffatt said she received a call from the prime minister's office the morning of the council meeting noting the call could not be made public. She said she was disappointed to not be able to share the moment with the community, though she understood the decision.

"The prime minister's phone calls are not typically open to media," said Matt Pascuzzo, press secretary, Office of the Prime Minister.

On the same day, Trudeau and Monsef also called to congratulate the all-women council in the town of Spanish, Ont.

"While it shouldn't be a newsworthy accomplishment, the numbers show that it

still is," said Ryan Young, special assistant to Monsef, "...Women represent less than a third of seats in Parliament and in provincial and territorial legislatures, and only 18 per cent of mayors and 28 per cent of city councillors. The Government of Canada recognizes the need to increase the number of women in leadership positions, because when more women participate in politics and civic life, we get decisions that better reflect the diverse needs and experiences of people in Canada."

Moffatt said the rare call from a sitting prime minister to the county should be acknowledged, but also that the group was ready to get to work for the township.

"To me, not unlike the milestone of the all-female council, this was yet another milestone on what appears to be a continuing path of interest in this issue and now it's over. And we have a lot of work to do. We've got a big agenda and we have big issues to discuss," said Moffatt. "...[W]e tuck that away in our little memory books and we move along to the work at hand."

Also that same day, Monsef's title changed to Minister for Women and Gender Equality.



Out on the ice

Minden residents Rob Milburn and his eight-year-old daughter Mackenzie were among a dozen skaters, out getting exercise during the public skate on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. Upcoming free holiday skating, which is made possible by the sponsorship by Tim Hortons, Karen Nimigon and Century 21 Granite Realty Group, is on Friday, Dec. 21, Thursday, Dec. 27, Friday, Dec. 28, Saturday, Dec. 29, Thursday, Jan. 3, Friday, Jan. 4 and Saturday, Jan. 5. Check online at mindenhills.ca for specific times. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Tim Hortons marks 15 years

Nancy Bishop, owner of the Minden Tim Hortons, hugs assistant manager Audrina Upton during a low-key celebration recognizing the 15th anniversary of the day it opened, Dec. 18. Upton has worked for Bishop for eight years and on behalf of staff said thank you "for believing in us and mostly for persevering with us." There are close to 40 part-time and full-time staff at the Haliburton and Minden Tim Hortons locations./DARREN LUM Staff



Nancy Bishop, owner of the Minden Tim Hortons, helps to cut the 15th anniversary cake, recognizing the day the Minden location opened 15 years before.

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What does Christmas mean to you?

by Ms. Patterson's Grade 3 students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Christmas spirit looks like snow falling down from the sky.

Christmas spirit sounds like bells.

Christmas spirit smells like Christmas trees.

Christmas spirit tastes like Christmas cookies.

Christmas spirit feels like happiness.

By: McCartney Saunders

Christmas spirit is about caring and loving people in your family, friends and others too.

Christmas spirit is not about Christmas presents. It's about caring.

By: Brayden Alton

Christmas spirit looks like giving to other people.

Christmas spirit sounds like laughter in the air.

Christmas spirit smells like turkey dinner and pie for dessert.

Christmas spirit tastes like stuffing and turkey and potatoes melting in your mouth.

Christmas spirit feels like love from family and friends getting together.

By: Alexis Feero

Christmas spirit feels like spending time with your family and having turkey dinner. Christmas spirit is also having fun and playing games with your family. You will see your whole family there. Your family will come snowmobiling with you.

By: Carson Brosseau

Christmas spirit looks like a Christmas tree to me.

Christmas spirit sounds like a Christmas song.

Christmas spirit smells like a Christmas dinner.

Christmas spirit tastes like chocolates at a

Christmas party.

Christmas spirit feels like happiness.

By: Anokhi Shah

Christmas spirit is spending time with my family. We eat turkey and potatoes at the Peppermill as a family. We get presents from Santa Claus. We play outside as a family.

By: Daniel Pletch

Christmas spirit smells like a Christmas Tree. It Looks like the pretty lights on the Christmas tree. Christmas spirit sounds like calm music because my papa listens to music at Christmas. It tastes like yummy chicken dinner. Christmas spirit feels like happiness.

By: Ayden Gardiner

What does Christmas spirit mean to me? I like to spend time with family and friends. I like giving things to them and just having a Christmas. Christmas feels like joy.

By: Mya Casey

Christmas spirit looks like giving. Christmas spirit sounds like having fun. Christmas spirit smells like turkey cooking in the oven. Christmas spirit tastes like homemade chocolate chip cookies. Christmas spirit feels like a warm heart.

By: Erynn Card

Christmas spirit means spending time with my family and doing traditions with my family. I love being with my cousins but it is really loud because all of my cousins are boys. I only have one girl cousin, Kennedy, but I don't get to see her that much. That is my Christmas spirit.

By: Myla Ecclestone

Christmas spirit means spending time with my family and doing traditions with my family. I love being with my cousins but it is really loud because all of my cousins are boys. I only have one girl cousin, Kennedy, but I don't get to see her that much. That is my Christmas spirit.

Christmas spirit looks like a family gathering around a Christmas tree opening presents. Christmas spirit sounds like kids ripping wrapping paper and saying yay for what they have got from Santa. Christmas spirit sounds like the joy of kids laughing. Christmas spirit tastes like gingerbread cookies. Christmas feels like jolly Christmas day.

By: Mackenzie Milburn

Christmas spirit means to me having fun with my family. It also means making Christmas cookies with my mom and watching Christmas movies. Christmas spirit is opening presents, singing Christmas carols and having traditions with my family.

By: Olivia Fitzell

Christmas spirit means to me being kind to everyone. It means spending time with my family members. It means remembering my grandpa and my grandma.

By: Kevin Jones

Christmas spirit means
 1. Using the 7 habits of Happy kids.
 2. Kindness matters.
 3. Having Christmas dinner.
 4. Spend time with family.
 5. Having fun.

By: Mason Latanville

What does Christmas Spirit mean to me? It looks like love and caring. It sounds like laughing and Christmas singing. It smells like Christmas cookies. It tastes like Christmas cookies. It feels like happiness.

By: Makenzie Madill

Christmas spirit means family to me. For Christmas I gather around with my family at my nana's house. We eat dinner with my family then after dinner we all sit around and watch a movie. We watch a couple and after that we open up the gifts. Every year, we donate some toys to kids that don't have any. That's what Christmas spirit is.

By: Leighton Nesbitt

Christmas spirit looks like snow falling and trees covered in snow. Christmas spirit sounds like singing carols. Christmas spirit smells like fresh baked cookies. Christmas spirit tastes like fresh baked cookies. Christmas spirit feels like snow.

By: Zachary Prentice

Christmas spirit means to me looking at people putting up their Christmas tree. It sounds like people laughing and having fun. It smells like baking. It tastes like Christmas dinner. It feels like opening presents. That is what Christmas spirit means to me.

By: Sarah Teljeur

Christmas spirit means to me spending time with my family. My second favourite thing is smelling Christmas dinner. Christmas spirit is playing games. Christmas spirit is family time.

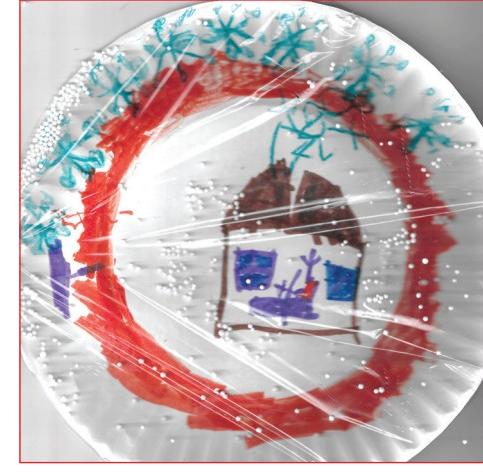
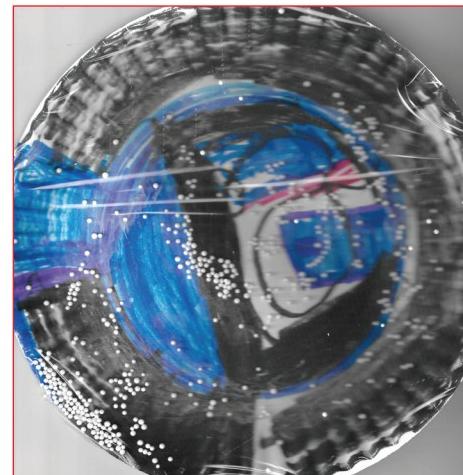
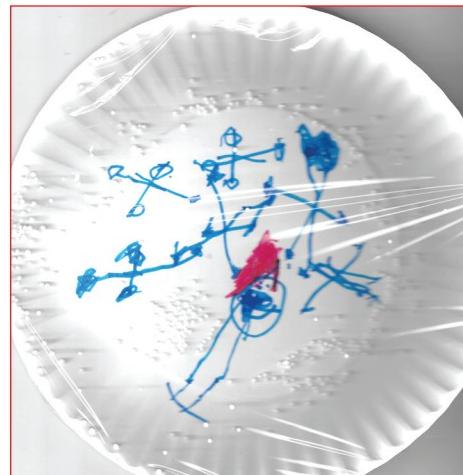
By: Jack Tomlinson

Christmas spirit to me looks like family gathering around a Christmas tree and happily opening presents! Christmas sounds like people baking cookies in the kitchen! Christmas smells like my Mom in the kitchen making a turkey! It smelled awesome! Christmas tastes like everybody gathering around the table and happily eating food! Christmas spirit feels like happiness!

By: Moira Hughey

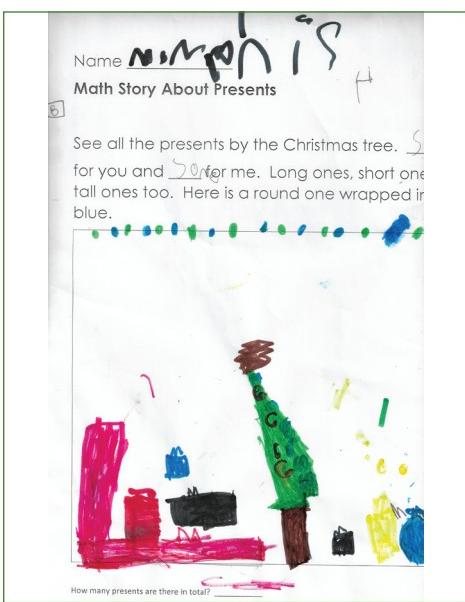
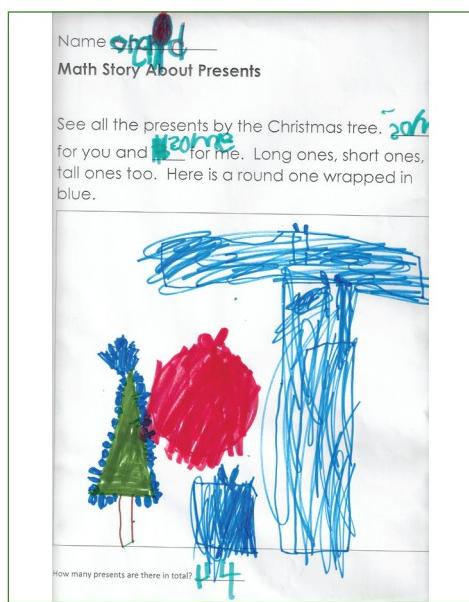
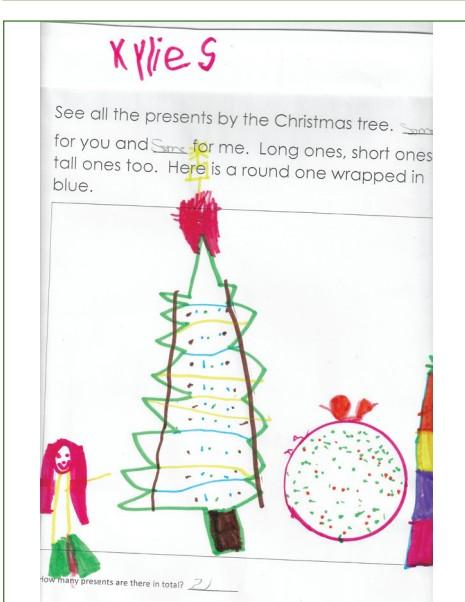
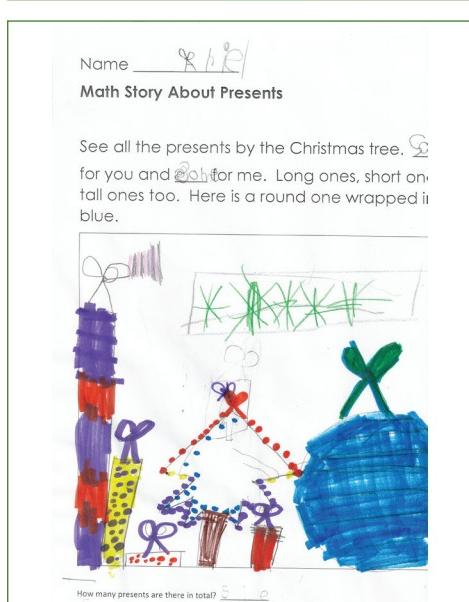
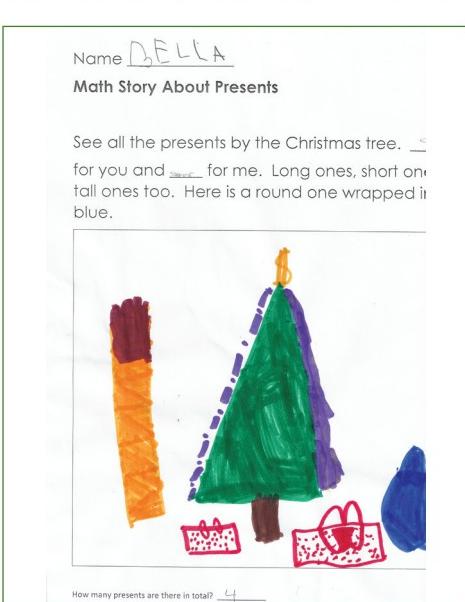
'Twas the night before Christmas snow globes

by Kindergarten and Grade 1 students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School



Math stories about presents

by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School



Pick my Santa suit

by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School

To mrs. Claus and Elvin the Elf
you need to pick my suite because it a great suite.

first santa need grips on the boots so he won't fall of the roof and we don't want that to happen.

next santa need a firproof suite so santa will be safe going down the chimney.

also santa need fur in his mintens and boot so he will stay worm. finally lots of pockets so santa can put lots of cookies in his pockets and that why you should pick my great suite.

your friend syd.



Dear ms. Claus and elvin

I think you should pick me up my suit because it has nitro in the boots and rocket boots and a built-in AC bags for all the toys

so please I think santa will love it's the best and it has 2 year warranty it's unlimited time offer so please pick my suit

ncjegh

Dear mrs clause and elvin the elf

I would like you to pick my suite because my suite is very fussy suite so he won't get cold when he is delivering the presents to the kids.

He also has gripes on the bottom of his shoes so he won't fall when he is delivering the presents to the kids.

His suite also includes no noise shoes so the kids won't hear him when he is delivering the toys to the kids.

His suite is fire prof suite so he won't get burned by the fire because some people forget to put out the fire beforthey go to bed.

from Ava code



Dear mrs claus

I have a suit for santa

your suit is pike and red with gray and red polkadot boots and gray matins unicorn horn and grips on his boots a blue mustathstath yellow beard. his shirt said go cookies and 2 s on his pans and red theks green fase because he 8 to many cookies he is sick. he is the big man. He has 4 pockets for cookies her are 3 trees in the background and rudolph to and a black hat. and a black belt and he has some fairy wings and rocket boots to. and a very heavy sac of toys. and a sled. the end.

From Jenna



Dear, mrs. claus and Elven,

Do have a suit for you! please choose my suit for santa by the following reasons.

Frist, candy cane striped shirt. This shirt is fire proof also invisible, so Santa can not be seen and it's really warm.

Secondly, the snowflake hat. This hat has headphones so Santa can drive the sleigh and keep Santa's ears warm.

Third, the reindeer boots. These boots are really warm and squirts water and when he leave the fire turns on.

Last, is cookies and milk mittens. These mittens will give every elf cookies and milk even Mrs. Claus and santa, so Mrs. Claus can take a break

From: Paige

P.S . Merry Christmas!



Dear Mrs. Claus and Elvin the Elf:

Oooohhhhhh do I have a suit for you, my suit has lots of stuff as reasons for you to pick my suit.

You should pick my suit because of these four reasons.

First, my Santa suit is decked out in camo

so he won't be seen. But there is a possibility that he will be seen so I added a button that will turn him fully invisible so I can guarantee he won't be seen.

Second, Santa will have fire proof gloves so if someone left there fire on he won't burn his hands. The gloves are also waterproof so his hands wont get cold and wet.

Next, Santa will have boots with the most silent dust in the world on the bottom so he won't be heard. The dust is glued on very good so it is impossible to take it off so he wont leave a trail of dust behind.

Finally, he will have glasses with wipers so snow won't get in his eyes and when the snow gets on his glasses the wipers can wipe it off.

So that is why you should pick my suit for Santa.

Sincerely, Jaylynne Bull

Dear Misses Claus and Elvin the Elf,

I think you should pick my suit because, I made it stain proof so you won't have to wash it anymore.

Then I said to myself what if kids see him at night. Then I put in a invisibility button so nobody can see him when he falls and makes noise. I also out some more padding so if his slay crashes can jump onto his reindeer and not hurt himself.

Then I decided to make it fireproof so he won't get hurt going down the chimneys.

From Tory

P.S. I made it look like a candy can so he can outdress the elves.

Dear Mrs Claus and Elvin,

You need to get my suit so here are some interesting stuff about my suit the first fact about my suit is a hat warmer he will need this because he is always in the snow so when will he be cold again with this hat.

The second thing about this suit is a cookie maker because if you had a cookie pocket all the cookie would fall out so whenever you want he can just press the cookie button and he will get a cookie and it will never run out.

Also to go with the cookie maker it a milk maker to dip your cookies in.

The last thing is and the best thing is octopus arms so he will never be late and if a kid wakes up he will be done in a jiffy.

So this is why you need to get my suit.

From maddy

Dear, Mrs.Clause

You should pick my suit for Santa because this suit has all kinds of features like: a red & black, camouflage Suit with secret pocket so he can use secret wrapping paper incase he runs out, a hypno ring incase he is seen, and a effective laugh, and a awesome jetpack to fly away with presents incase he needs to abandon his sligh.

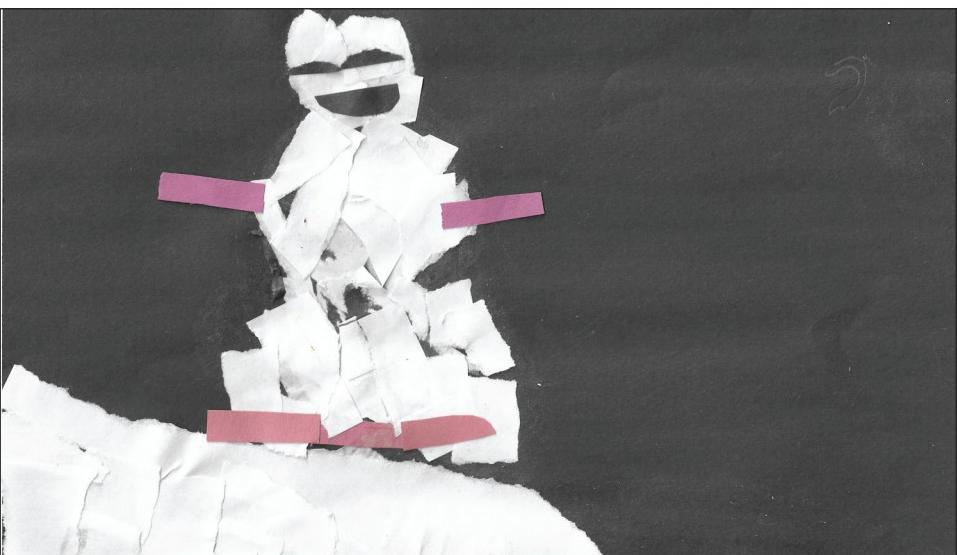
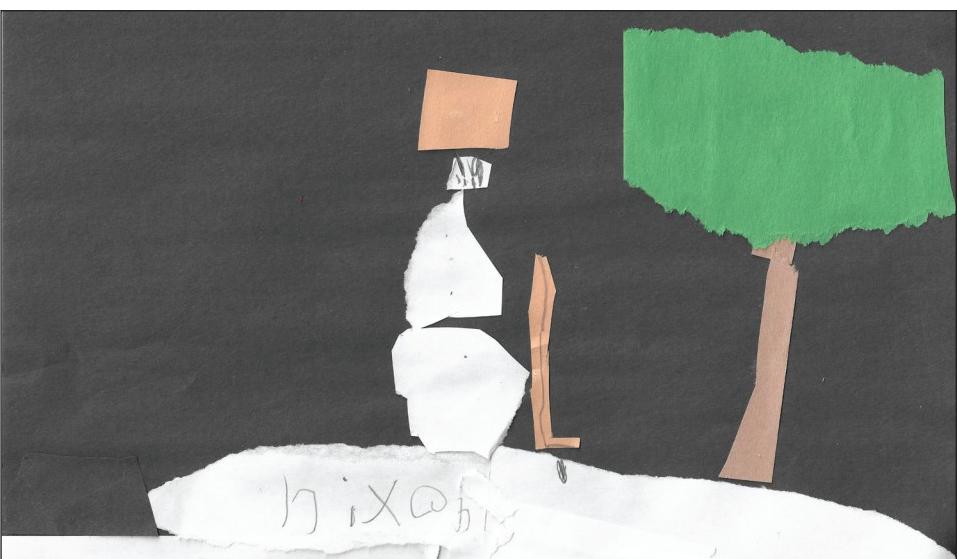
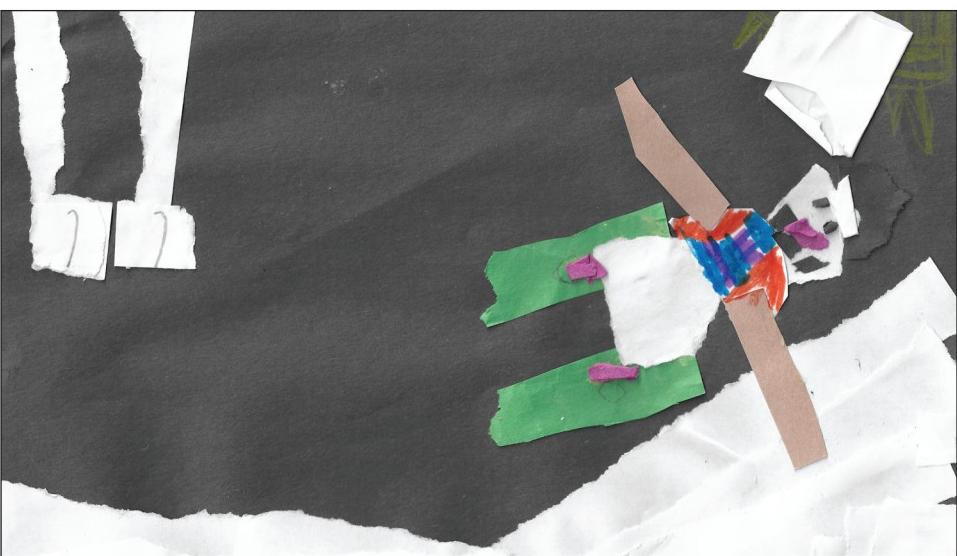
I think you should pick my awesome suit because it has a extension button for if he grows it will still fit his SIZE!! It also has a very, very, very warm in siding for the boots. And the reason he can go so fast is he has jets on his ARMS, and on his LEGS!!! He also has a very nice belt to fit his comfort.

He also could have very warm mitts on his hands so he'll be warm no matter what happens. And lastly the best part of the suit is it is not even a little bit heavy. So now he can move even faster with all these cool tech-neeks and other stuff to add-on. That is why you should pick my SANTA SUIT, for santa.

From: Erik.B

'If I were a snowman at night'

by Grade 1, 2 and 3 students



Pick my Santa suit

by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Dear mrs. Claus and elven the elf,

This is not about what I want for Christmas. It's about santa's new suit. The belt sucks up all fire within three square feet of Santa clause. Secondly, the gold chain that says "Xmas cheer" can remove greed and give cheer. The cell phone "noel cell" can create presents, store cookies, and make carrots. The hat is an antenna, and he has an earpiece, so he can talk to Rudolph and the elves. Shouldn't the kids Santa serves design his new suit? In conclusion my suit has amazing features and should be picked. PS elven shouldn't feel bad. PPS ms.clause can get a phone at the apple factory in California, USA.

Sincerely, Colton Ansley

Dear Mrs Claus and Elvin,

If he needs a new sleigh I will make him one. Mrs claus i saw that you shrunk so then i made him a new one.

It has a black shirt because his chest would get cold if he did not have a shirt

The suit has Pink pants so he has clothes and so his legs don't get cold

A gold belt to hold up his pink pants

Green glasses and hat so he does not get snow on his eyes and head

Mrs claus and Elvin hope you pick my suit

From your very own Jackson

Dear Mrs Clause and Elven the elf

I hear you want a new suit, well you told the right kid. This new suit has solved all your problems, so let's start with the best.

First do you ever wonder where Santa is? Well with this suit you will know where he is. It comes with a bow tie, not just any bow tie a talking/tracking bow tie. With this you will know whee he is and be able to talk with him.

Next does Santa ever have trouble going up chimneys. Well now he can very easily go up with his brand-new suit. It is lightweight and has a jetpack. Also, if his sleigh crashed he can float back to the north pole.

Another great thing with this suit is that his boots have sensors on the bottom. This is good because he goes down chemneys the sensors will sense fire and put it out.

The most amazing thing about this suit is that it has a build in invisibility button. This is good because then he won't get spotted. This last feature is also good. It is color changing mittens. He wants his mittens one color one day than a different color the next then his mittens will change color.

I hope you choose my suit. I think Santa and the kids would really like it.

From Grace

Dear Mrs. Claus and Elvin the elf,

Do you need a suit? If so I got a good one for you!

First I picked the warmest and fuzziest fur I could find. The fur is on the inside of Santa's suit. If Santa gets to hot he can push a button and the fur will come off of the suit. So Santa will keep warm on his journey.

Next there is holly on his hat. The holly will keep him simple and stylish.

Then I put a safety pad in side the suit. The safety pad is for if he crashes. There is also water in the safety pad for a fire is still on in a house.

Last there is super goggles attached to his hat. The super goggles are there for him to see when it is dark out. The goggles will also make sure he does not miss a kids house.

Santa needs this suit it has everything he needs.

Yours truly, Lilly

Dear Mrs Clause and Elven,

Do I have a suit for you! Choose my suit because of the following new feachers I have added.

First you need to hear about the amazing new suit colors. It is rainbow colors on it so if someone sees him they do not how he is. It could be very dangerous if he is spotted. He could be torched or hurt.

The second thing you need to add is call save life glitter. So if santa claus get injured the glitter will save him. Or if they do find out how he is the glitter will turn him invisible.

Next you need to get him sockings. Sockings are sock that turn into stockings when santa takes them off but only when it is christmas eve. The really cool part is a new pair appears after he takes his sockings.

Then he needs to get 2 pockets built on his coat one is called the dissolver and it eats the cookies he does not like so the kids do not get upset if he does not eat the cookies. The 2 pocket is called the keeper it keeps the cookies he likes warm.

That is why you should choose my new features suit.

From Beth

Dear Miss Claws and Alvin the elf,

Do i have a suit for you, it is waterproof and super soft and worm. It is like a little cat it is so soft i wish i was Santa it would be so fun. It will be the best in the closet! So cool! I am so excited for christmas! It has been a pleasure! bye

from Jacob

Dear Mrs Clause,

I have the best suit Santa would ever want. Her is 5 reasons why you should pick mine

The fist amazing reason is the suit has unlimited pockets so Santa can store all the cookes he wants.

The second outstanding reason is the suit can apply grease so Santa can slip thou the chimney with eese.

The third flabbergasting reason is the suit has night vision goggles so he can see in the dark

The forth totes amazing reason is an invisibility belt so if a kid is awake he can turn invisible.

The fifth most amazing bestest thing unlimited het warmers so Santa will be warm.

Now those reasons are the best i have ever seen you should pick mine I want santa to have the best suit ever.

Sincerely owen

Dear miss. Claus and Elvin the elf,

I am Writing to you to tell you about a new suit for santa.

You should pick my suit because it has a hairbrush for just in case his hair Tangles and it has a heater to keep him warm.

Oh I forgot There is a jet pack Just in case the sleigh Breaks down.

There's also a diaper just in case he has to go to the Washroom.

So please pick My suit.

By carson jones

Dear Mrs Claus and elven and the elf,

I would like to tell you about this suit

First, your suit will have if you go in someone's house you can be invisible is no won can see you.

Next you dont have to war your hat you still have powers.

Then you can get your elfs if you wish.

You an have a air bag if you fall off a roof

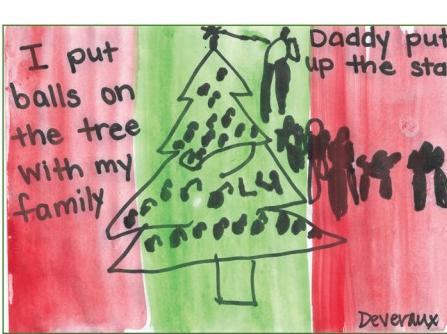
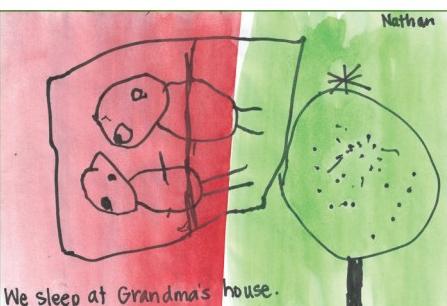
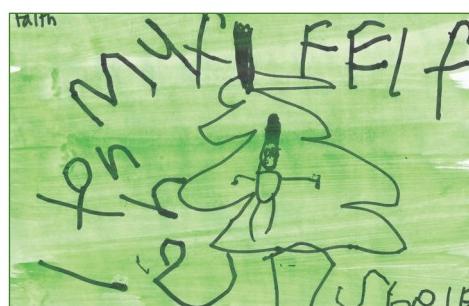
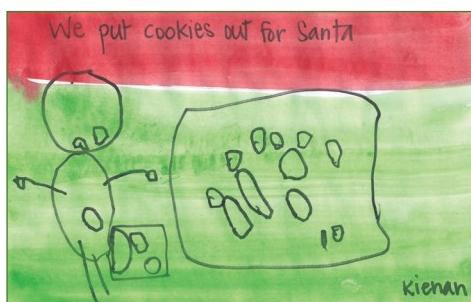
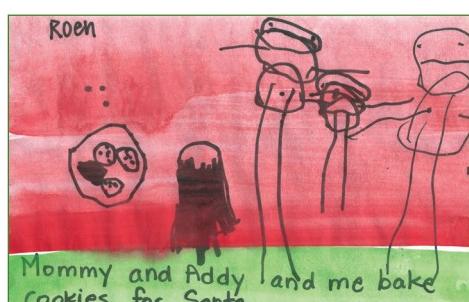
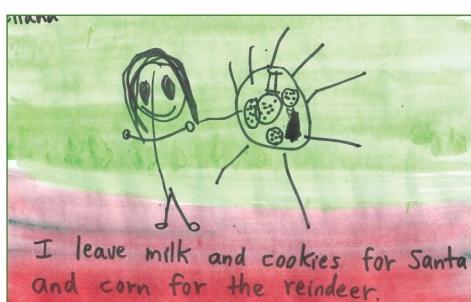
Last your suit has a stash for you cookies.

I hope you chose mine

From chloe

Family traditions

by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School



'Twas the night before Christmas snow globes

by Kindergarten and Grade 1 students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School



Christmas Poem

Candles burning peacefully
As I wait for Christmas day
Presents sitting underneath
The glitzy Christmas tree
My siblings bouncing off the walls
wondering what they could be

Santa Claus has come this year
I can guarantee.
Slowly everyone
Starts gathering round the tree,
Scraps of wrapping paper flying
All the grown ups sighing
But nothing could ever ruin
The smiles and the glee
Of all the happy souls
Under the Christmas tree.

Zita Suranyi, Grade 8, ASES

Pick my Santa suit

by students from Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Dear, mrs claus and Elvin the Elf
I really hope you guys like my suit here four amazing features

The First feature is the some beat headphones so he can listen to some jams when he is in his sled and so he does not get bored and there warmth so he does not freeze his ears off

The second feature is some nice hot pink socks because sant's favorite color is hot pink and who would not want to see santa in hot pink socks

The Third feature is cup hold two cup holders on each side of the belt to hold extra warm milk for the ride around the world

The fourth feature is so that santa does super warm clothes freeze to death we would not want that because all the kids that believe will be sad

There you go four amazing features for santa's new suit

Sincerely, Austin Latanville

Dear Mrs Claus and Elvin

You should definitely choose my fantastic suit. It comes with all sorts of awesome features.

The first feature is the robot arm. If santa eats to much cookies and can't fit down chimneys then he can take his robot arm and put the presents under the tree and grab the cookies.

The second feature is the radio build in his coat. He can listen to the top jams of 2018/2019. If you thought I was done with the awesomeness then you are wrong!

This suit also is made with the softest material in the universe but it will only keep you warm with the power of christmas cheer and cookies.

Last but not least is santa's coat is able to shapeshift. So if a kid came down when he was delivering the presents he can turn into a crum or something and he won't lose his identity. Those are all the reasons you should pick my coat.

From Shayla

Dear Mrs. Clause and Elvin the elf

Do I have a suit for you? I made it so santa has a suit for christmas. The suit has an fm radio so he can listen to the best x-mas music. Griped boots so santa dosent slip. And still more to come. A strapped hat so it dosent fall off when the sleigh goes really fast or when he goes down the chimney. Last but cirtlyl not least pockets for cookies and containers for milk.

Sincerely Ryana

Junior ballers dominate

by DARRIN LUM
Times Staff

The junior Hawks basketball team was at its best for the Titans last week at home.

It's too bad a large contingent of students chose to leave when they did in the first quarter because the Hawks were on fire at both ends of the floor, showing little mercy to the visiting St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School squad. The home side exploded for a 12-0 run to start the Kawartha High School Basketball League game on Thursday, Dec. 13.

In response, the Titans showed some fight and went on a 6-0 run. However that was as close as the opponents came to tying the Hawks, who used a full court press (used for the first time this season) and added 11 points against just two Titans points to end the quarter. The red and white pretty much won the game at the conclusion of the first quarter with a 23-8 lead. The Titans did improve in the second half, but their efforts were all for naught as the Hawks kept up the pressure easily winning 62-28.

Hawks coach Paul Longo likes his team this season for their effort and willingness to learn.

"It's a great group of kids and they're really receptive to what we tell them. They're working really hard and really starting to gel. There is very good chemistry," he said.

Longo said coming in there was a defensive goal since the team has no problem

scoring.

"It was more about can we defend and can we set a goal and keep to it? For the most part they did it," he said.

Although the team is 2-2 on the season, he believes the team could be 3-1. He adds there is a strong veteran presence with 11 returning players to the team.

The team's long-term goal is to be the best single A team.

"We got to take care of all of our single A games, which we've done so far and then use our AA and AAA games as a learning experience," he said.

There is a hope to encourage new players to join the team next year. This spring the team will work with Grade 9s to fill the void that will be left behind the departure of the veterans.

Keys to success in junior basketball Longo said are good defence and minimize turnovers.

With just eight players, the visitors from Peterborough were up against the odds to start the game. There were more chairs than bench players for the Titans. Comparatively, the Hawks had a sea of red players with their 17 players on the other side.

This game featured strong team defence and an efficient offence by the Hawks. The lopsided win enabled the coaching staff, which includes Sam Little, Dan Lapierre and Andy Valickis, to play everybody.

Coming into the game, the Hawks lost a tight one with Lindsay Collegiate

Vocational Institute 42-38.

The team didn't leave any doubt about victory on this day.

They had more than double the points as the Titans by efficient scoring at the rim and on the perimeter by using their spacing, lightening transition to offence off of turnovers, and applied stifling defence to negate any time for the Titans to set up plays or get any easy looks at the bucket. Coming into the game, coach Longo wanted his defence to limit the Titans to no more than 24 points. At 28 allowed points, the coach liked what he saw.

The blowout win, he said, also enabled him to get everyone some playing time. It's a challenge with so many players. He said the players have all accepted their various roles from the main eight players down the depth chart to development players in accepting this situation.

Also, there were several strong performances such as from starting point guard Brian Kim was a monster on both ends of the court, whether scoring on fast-breaks off of steals from his aggressive defence to cause several turnovers.

The second year player hounded the Titans point guards at the point of attack. He had active hands, extending hands into dribbling lanes. Kim finished with 17 points to lead all players, including 11 points in the first quarter. Hawks centre Jaxon Gill finished with 10 points while Carson Phillips and Vikram Marathe each had five points.

The Titans' only offensive threat was Logan Gignac, who finished with 15 points to lead his team and finish second in game scoring.



Red Hawks junior player Carson Phillips, who contributed five points, bounce passes the ball past a Titans defender on Thursday, Dec. 13 in Haliburton. The Hawks improved their record to 2-2 with the 62-28 home victory. /DARRIN LUM Staff

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Answers on page 18

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MINOR HOCKEY

Bantam

On Friday, the Highland Storm Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House and Dollo's Foodland Bantams hosted the Lindsay Muskies. The Muskies scored in the first period which was quickly answered by a goal from Ty Mills assisted by Jackson Wilson. In the second period the Muskies scored again. The Storm answered back with a goal by Colby McGovern assisted by Mills. In the third period the Muskies scored again taking the lead. With two minutes left on the clock the Storm's Kaine Brannigan scored assisted by Gage Hutchison and Ty Mills. The Storm were able to keep the Muskies at three while continuing to battle at the Muskies net right to the last second but were unable to take the win ending the game in a 3-3 tie.

On Saturday the Storm travelled to Millbrook to play the Millbrook Stars. The Storm had a difficult time getting past the Stars' defence. The Storm were able to hold the Stars at one for the whole first period. Darien Maddock had an outstanding night in net, making at least 30 saves. Multiple times Maddock's legs were like the paddles in a ping pong arcade game with the puck being saved off his right pad, then left, then a quick catch in his glove. Maddock was on his toes keeping the Stars at three.

Next up the Storm travel to Huntsville to play the Huntsville Otters on Dec. 22.

By Jessica Lloyd

Midget

The Highlander and Ed Smolen Family Dentistry Highland Storm Midget team had a busy weekend with back to back games. It was hockey night in Minden, Friday, Dec. 14 and the Midgets wiped out the Powassan Hawks 6-3. The Storm team came out strong and minutes into it MacNaull nabbed a goal. Shortly after Gilbert broke through the defence and top cornered the next goal. Seconds before the end of the period, Vasey took a point shot, Davies picked up the rebound and ended the first 3-0 for the Storm. The Storm continued to dominate in the second period. MacNaull picked up his second goal with a slap shot, that made it 4-0. The Hawks managed to get a goal during a five minute power play later in the second. Shortly after, still short-handed, Haedicke won the faceoff to feed Gilbert, he snapped a one timer in for a 5-1 game, ending the second. The Hawks scored early in the third and made it a 5-2 game. The action continued. Haedicke started the rush, fed Smith and he chipped in the goal. The Hawks got lucky on a breakaway and scored. That ended the game, a nice 6-3 win for the Storm Midgets. The next day they travelled to Huntsville and took on the Otters, it was a tough game from the start. The first goal went to the Otters while on a power play. The Storm team picked up the pace and MacNaull scored a wrap around goal, 1-1. The Midgets worked hard and killed off a three-on-five power play. That boosted the Storm. Haedicke took off with lightning speed, made a quick pass to Gilbert and he did his magic to find the open top corner. The Storm now winning 2-1. The Otters answered back loudly with three goals. The Storm team went into the third period down 4-2. It didn't take long for them to close the gap, while on a power play, mak-

ing it 4-3. MacNaull won the face-off, fed Walker and he snapped it in. The intensity picked up. Gilbert began the rush, took it behind the net and then found Haedicke waiting in front to secure the goal and the 4-4 tie. A great game played by the Midget team.

By Suzanne Haedicke

Novice

On Saturday, Dec. 15 the Haliburton TimberMart/Haliburton Hockey Haven Sports Camp Rep Novice team hosted the Kawartha Coyotes at the A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton. The Storm knew the competition would be tough. In the first period, Henry Neilson scored the first goal for the Storm on a breakaway. During the second, Neilson put another one in with the assist going to Isaac Trotter. Hot goaltending by Carter Braun and a solid defence held the Coyotes at bay. During the third, Evan Perrott scored the third goal for the Storm, assisted by Neilson, to make the game 3-0 in what was up to this point, a tightly played game by both teams. All of a sudden, the Coyotes hit the gas pedal and the game turned upside down for the home team. The Coyotes scored six goals in the last eight minutes of the game resulting in a 6-3 loss for the Storm. Better luck to the team next Saturday in their away game against the Millbrook Stars.

By Sarah Gruppe

Tyke

The Tom Prentice and Sons/Walkers Heating and Cooling Tyke team had their first home game Saturday at the Haliburton arena against Muskoka Rock. Nixon Ecclestone and Kelson Bagshaw had no trouble finding the back of the net scoring a combined five goals in the first period. Storm kept up their momentum in the last period with six more goals scored by Matthew Mueller, Rowan Johnson, Brady Burke and Ecclestone. Storm goalie Jackson Robichaud played a stellar game only allowing Port Carling to sneak three goals in the Storm net.

By Marita Bagshaw

Midget LL

The LL Pharmasave Midgets played the undefeated South Muskoka Bears last weekend in Minden. The Bears opened the scoring on a low shot that found its way past a screened Nate Miscio. The Storm had a two-man power play at the end of the first and forward Brenden Newhook took full advantage tying the game early in the second. South Muskoka regained the lead a few minutes later when a player was left wide open in front of Miscio. Jayme Coltman had a strong second period with some excellent forechecking and rushes that almost turned into scoring opportunities. Miscio made a sweet kick save on a low shot just prior to Paul Turner tying the game for the Storm finishing off a rebound from a Newhook shot. The Storm found themselves tied at 2-2 with the league leading Bears heading into the final frame. Colin Crowe almost scored in close on the power play and then completed the job seconds later to put the Storm ahead for the first time. The Bears tied the game again on a strong three-on-one but Crowe came

right back and popped in his second of the night which would eventually turn out to be the winner for the Storm beating South Muskoka 4-3.

By Gord Hoenow

Atom 1 LL

On Sunday the GJ Burtch LL Atom 1 team travelled to Bracebridge to face off against South Muskoka Middaugh Masonry. The Storm would be the first to score: a beauty by Eric Mueller assisted by Jacob Mantle. Twenty seconds later, South Muskoka tied the game up five minutes into the first. It was clear that this game was going to be a battle.

The second period saw chances traded on both ends of the rink. The Storm's goalie Jacob Lloyd made numerous timely saves to keep his team in the game. Sadie Evans-Fockler blocking shots, Jacob Davis diving to chip the puck out of our zone, a definite team effort was on display.

The Storm's team approach began to pay off starting the third period. Isaac Borgdorff scored 35 seconds into the third, assisted by Olivia Gruppe and Mantle. Minutes later, South Muskoka answered back with a goal of their own, tying it back up at two. The Storm did not back down. Thirty seconds later Mantle stole the puck, skated through everyone, and scored unassisted.

The Storm soon found themselves in the driver's seat as Borgdorff scored his second. Then Eric Mueller got his second of the game, assisted by Gruppe and Davis. Isaac Borgdorff scored his third of the period with only six seconds remaining. They did not stop working even once they took the lead. Great team effort. Final 6-2.

Three stars: Jacob Lloyd-Gottinger, Jake Mantle, Isaac Borgdorff.

Submitted by Jamie Lloyd

Midget Girls

Late afternoon, on Saturday, the team hosted the Keene Wolverines on home ice. The game was hard fought by both teams exchanging opportunities end to end throughout the game. The Jets took the lead early in the first. Ryan Rupnow, unassisted, skated the puck in from her defensive position, came from behind the opponents' net, and started off the Jets with a beautiful back handed goal. Shortly after, with a scramble in front of the Wolverines' net, Jaylin Frost was able to find the puck and tuck it in, assisted by Victoria Shpkula. Halfway through the second period, with the Jets short handed, Gabby Burnett, unassisted, stole puck at centre ice skated it in and deked Keene's goalie. Top of the third, with a precision pass from teammate Haley Goulet, from the right corner in the opponents' end, Kendra Bandy scored the final goal of the game from the blue line, with a shot bottom left corner. Final score in the nail biter game, Jets 4, Wolverines 3.

On Sunday afternoon, again on home ice, the team took on the Ennismore Eagles for another exciting evenly matched game. Jules Croskery had the Jets' lone goal of the game with a back-hander, as a result of a scramble in front of the Eagles' net. She was assisted by Liv Martin. The Jets' held Ennismore the entire game, but with only 1:57 remaining on the clock in the third, the Eagles scored, resulting in a tie 1-1.

The Jets next home game is this Saturday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. against Cold Creek.

Come out, watch the action and cheer the girls on!

By Linda Goulet

Atom A

On Saturday the Ridgewood Ford/Cottage Country Building Supplies Atom A's faced the Ennismore Eagles in Haliburton. The game started off a strong pace going to end to end hockey with neither team giving up chances. Storm forward Josh Scheffee played all 200 feet of the ice with some strong back checking disabling any Ennismore shot attempts. Despite these efforts it wasn't long before the Eagles had posted three goals on the board sending pucks to their waiting defencemen and strong rushes to the net proving too much for Storm defence. Getting the Storm on the board was Jace Mills who managed to get his stick on a Caleb Manning shot that eluded the minder. Later on in the game an Eagles' clearing attempt was stopped at the blue line by Toby Posti who capitalized on their mistake with a slapshot sailing to the top corner bringing the Storm one goal closer to tying it up also making that Toby's first of the year. Toby's goal was assisted by Jace Mills and Josh Scheffee. After a few offensive zone penalties the door was left wide open when Ennismore added one more goal to make a 4-2 total. You can catch this Storm team in action in Gravenhurst this Wednesday as they face South Muskoka.

By Pasi Posti

Peewee LL

The Highland Storm LL Peewee Canadian Tire Team had a home game against the Almaguin Ice Devils. The Highland Storm LL Peewee Canadian Tire team came out in full force and kept their speed and skill up all game long. Goal scorers of the game were: Jamie Crowe (two goals), Ethan Megrah-Poppe (three goals), Haiden Bird, Nathan Guild, Ethan Thomas, Maria O'Malley, and Faysal Wiso. Assists made by Merrick Chapman, Ethan Thomas, Jamie Crowe, and Nathan Guild kept the scores coming in while Carson Simms kept the shots out of his net with 19 saves. All players worked hard all game long ending the game with a 10-1 win for the Highland Storm. Way to go, Storm with your first win of the season. The Highland Storm LL Peewee Canadian Tires next game is Saturday, Jan. 5 in Huntsville at 10:40 a.m. against the Huntsville HRC.

By Shawn Guild

Atom 2 LL

The TD Canada Trust II Atoms hosted South Muskoka in Minden. With another battle on their hands the TDS where showing their skills and keeping South Muskoka scoreless through the first. During the second period Brian Robichaud was showing he was a force to be reckoned with in net, but South Muskoka was able to score. With a faceoff in the South Muskoka zone, Ethan Rowe won the faceoff and passed a beautiful shot to Logan Reid which he found the five hole and scored. During the third period exhaustion was setting in and South Muskoka found the loss. For a game total of 9-1 for South Muskoka.

By Chris McMartin

UPCOMING Community Events

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Wilberforce Funraising Group

We invite everyone to celebrate a fabulous year of volunteer efforts. Free skating and a little Christmas cheer.

When: Saturday, Dec. 22, 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: Wilberforce Arena
Skating and Refreshments

Haliburton Pastoral Charge

When: Monday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve 7 p.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. at Pine St., Haliburton
Joint Pastoral Charge Evening Service – Communion and Special Guest Music Artists

Anglican Church Services

When: Christmas Eve Dec. 24

Where: St. Peter's Maple Lake 2 p.m., St James Kinmount 4:00 p.m., St. Paul's Minden 7 p.m.

Haliburton Pastoral Charge

When: Sunday, Dec. 30 - 11:15 a.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton Contemporary Service

Gord Kidd & Friends' Country Classics featuring the classic steel guitar of Don Stiver

When: Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, 2 to 5 p.m.

Where: Minden Legion

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The Highland Trio in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, 3 to 6 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom

Cost: \$5.00 cover charge for non-members
50/50 draw at 6 p.m. There will be no diners offered at these events
www.haliburtonlegion.com/



Red Hawks volleyball squad shines

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Less than a week after the Hawks dominated single A schools in their exhibition home opener, they continued to show progress on the road.

The Hawks varsity girls' volleyball team shut out Brock 2-0 (25-12 and 25-19), St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School 2-0 (25-23 and 25-15), and Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute 2-0 (25-23 and 25-22), but split 1-1 (13-25 and 25-17) with I.E. Weldon Secondary School and lost 0-2 (13-25 and 12-25) to Fenelon Falls Secondary School on Wednesday, Dec. 12 on the road.

The lone loss and split didn't take away the overall "promising showing" said the Red Hawks girls' senior team head coach Dan Gimon.

He likes his team and their effort.

Every exhibition tournament in the lead up to the Kawartha Championship is a building block to reaching the team's potential.

When asked about the split to LCVI and loss to Fenelon Falls he said it came down to return of serve.

"Fenelon is pretty strong overall but their serving was exceptionally strong effectively nullifying our offence. Weldon also had two strong servers and the only reason we lost the set against them was because I refused to call a time out during a serving run by one of them. I wanted them to solve her on their own," he wrote in an email. "Obviously I would not have played it that way if there was anything at stake. I think it was a good lesson on how important an effective serve receive is and will make them work hard to get there. Along with the usual work on fundamentals we will be spending quite a bit of time on serve receive in order to allow us to run an effective offence."

With files from Dan Gimon



**Wishing Everyone a Very
Merry Christmas & A Safe
& Happy New Year!**



**The County of Haliburton's Administration
Office will be closed from
Friday, December 21st, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
and re-opening on
Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.
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All stars

Players in the atom division race for the puck during the MPS All Star Games at the A.J. LaRue Arena on Dec. 16. The day of fun brings together some of the top minor hockey players throughout the region.
/CHAD INGRAM Staff

I love to run and run and run...

ACTUALLY I DON'T love to run or jog or any other term you would like to use. For a long time I got away from running because it hurt. I would much rather be on a bike even if it's a stationary bike in my basement. I'm working on changing that shortsighted attitude because I know a well-rounded fitness program is much better for me in the long run (pun intended). I'm getting out for run/walk combination at least once a week now.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

My true motivation came a few weeks ago when I was trying to make a green light to cross a street. In that moment I realized that I couldn't sprint. There was a disconnect between my brain and all of the parts of my body that are involved in getting from A to B quickly. Frankly, that scared me. It became bigger than getting across the street. What if I had to run from harm? Could I do that without hurting myself? What if I had to get to someone to save them? Sprinting on a more regular basis is now part of my life.

It's all about starting with reasonable goals. Every time I get out for run/walk I work to run more than I did before. I've also added in short sprints. I pick a landmark that may be just out of my range and get my short little legs moving as fast as they can. I won't say it gets easier every time that I do it, but it's not as painful as it was. My body is adapting to the challenge. I find that exciting and empowering!

If you'd like to give this a try here are two ideas for you:
• Plan an outside walk/jog/run based on your current abilities. Run as much as you can without creating too much discomfort. It's much better to come home wanting more than wanting to throw your gear in the garbage so you never have to see it again. Each time you go out keep the distance the same and attempt to jog/run/sprint a little more. If you listen to your body you'll know when the time is right to increase the distance you travel.

• In addition to or instead of the outside version, walk/jog/sprint inside. I don't have a large basement but I have been sprinting the length of it (it's really no more than five steps but several reps gets my heart rate up). Start with what you can handle even if it's just once across and back. Build from there. To add a challenge, run forward and then backwards. An even bigger challenge is start each rep lying on the floor and jumping up to the sprint. It's like adding a burpee to routine. Call me crazy. You won't be the first one.

I'm sure jogging/running will never be my favourite activity but it's an ability I don't ever want to lose. Besides, running really fast brings back some great childhood memories, and that's always a good thing!

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

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We are hoping that hearing your child or someone you love chatting with Santa will add that extra little sparkle to your Christmas Season.

For information or how to book a "Santa Call" please email traffic@canoefm.com or phone 704-457-1009.

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In Loving Memory of

Murray R. Tripp



Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, December 13, 2018 with his family by his side, in his 87th year.

Beloved husband of June for 64 years. Dear father of Cathy Colliver, Cynthia Persaud, Bill Tripp, Steven Tripp (Linda) and Stan Tripp (Glenda). Loving papa to Sara, Amber, Nicole, Stacie (deceased), Kerri, Travis, Matthew, Ashlee, Zachary, Victoria, Michael and great papa to Logan, Damon, Hailey, Dylan and Isaac. Dear brother of Glenda, Eleanor and predeceased by his many brothers and sisters. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A Service to Celebrate Murray's Life will be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Lakeside Baptist Church or to the Lung Association would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Gordon Walter Cross

Passed away peacefully at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay on Friday, December 14, 2018 with his family by his side, at the age of 68.



Beloved husband of Beth (nee Hargrave). Dear brother of Eric and Dianne Cross of Lindsay and brother-in-law of Dan and Marlene Hargrave of Kirkfield, Cecilia Smith of Dunsford, Theresa and Bruno Wilimek of Oakwood. Fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews.

It was Gordon's wish for cremation. A Gathering to Celebrate Gordon's Life will be held in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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In Loving Memory of
Stanley Charles Farrell

Passed peacefully at the age of 95 on Sunday, December 9, 2018, at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home in Minden.

Stanley Charles Farrell (1923-2018) was born in Wolverhampton, England, the youngest of eight children. In his youth he spent seven years as an apprentice painter and decorator, a trade which later in life was to become his occupation. He also worked on the Great Western Railway before volunteering for the Royal Air Force's Bomber Command in World War Two. Stanley was initially attached to the South African Air Force in Egypt, flying throughout North Africa, and conducting bombing raids against fascist Italy. Later in the war he served as a Wireless Radio Operator aboard B-26 Marauder bombers. As part of the RAF's Levant Communications Flight, he flew extensively around the Middle East, and as far as Pakistan.

After the war, Stanley married Jean Farrell (nee Corbett), and in 1955 they immigrated to Canada with their son George. They settled first in Toronto where Stanley set up business as a painting contractor. They eventually purchased a house in Don Mills. One day in the early 1970's, the couple was invited to a friend's cottage on the Drag River in Gelert. While there he went fishing and caught a huge bass. "This is the life for me," he was heard to exclaim, and the couple promptly purchased a plot of land along the river. They put up a cottage and by the mid 70's had moved up permanently. It was at the cottage that Stanley taught his grandsons how to swim. Although he reduced his workload he continued his painting and decorating business in the Highlands.

In the early 80's, at the suggestion of his son, Stanley embarked on a new career as a scenic artist in the burgeoning film industry. During the years of his decorator's apprenticeship Stanley learned such skills as how to transform a concrete floor into simulated wooden planking, and how to convert a plain pine dresser into luxurious oak. He was also excellent at turning any paintable surface into marble which was hard to tell from the real thing. These skills were in demand with production companies, and Stanley worked on many television commercials and feature films.

After retiring from a decade in the film industry Stanley used his skills to help create sets for various local theatrical productions, such as the Highlands Summer Festival and Highlands Little Theatre. He also taught staining, graining and marbleizing to students at the School of the Arts in Haliburton. For many years, Stanley curled at the Minden Curling Club, and played golf at the Beaverbrook Golf Club. He was a keen competitor in both sports. Stanley was a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636 in Minden, where he will be sorely missed.

Stanley and Jean moved to Invergordon Avenue in Minden in 2008, before finally relocating to the Highland Crest long-term care facility in 2017. He remained a lover of storytelling, golf, cricket, and cryptic crosswords. Stan is lovingly remembered by; his wife Jean, son George, daughter-in-law Michelle St. Pierre, grandsons Brendan and Tyson, and in England by his nieces Wendy, Elaine, and Susan, and his nephew Charles.

A private Family Graveside Service will be held at the Gelert Cemetery in the spring. Memorial donations can be sent to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Monday, December 19, 1994

Rabjohn elected warden of Haliburton County

by Jerry Grozelle

Ross Rabjohn, reeve of Sherborne et al, has been elected as warden of Haliburton County for the coming year.

The election took place at the inaugural meeting of the new council at Hyland Crest's auditorium on December 13.

Two people were nominated for the warden's job. Jeanne Anthon, reeve of Anson, Hindon and Minden, nominated Lutterworth reeve Jim McMahon for a second term. And Snowdon reeve George Simmons nominated Rabjohn.

McMahon said that when he was elected as warden of the county last year, he had a plan to improve the quality of life in Haliburton County. He explained that the execution of that plan has not yet been completed. McMahon said that if he was re-elected, he would work with county council to fulfil that initiative.

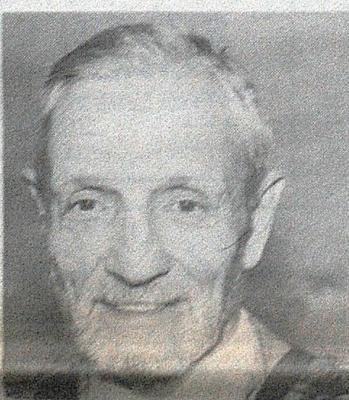
McMahon described himself as hard working, unselfish, conscientious, straight, honest, fair and creative, among others.

"These words have been used to describe me by taxpayers in the Highlands," he said. "I would be reticent if I did not agree that they are part of my self image."

McMahon added the adjective modest to the list.

"I am a modest man who wishes only to serve his community, his family and his conscience," McMahon stated.

McMahon highlighted some of the



Ross Rabjohn

accomplishments of county council over the past year under his leadership. "We recruited Terry Noble as clerk/treasurer, versus hiring a CEO for a savings of \$40,000," he pointed out.

He cited a savings of \$100,000 by the elimination of planning and waste management because of a lack of consensus among the 10 municipalities.

Installation of a new computer system, the hiring of human resources manager Sue Trays, the creation of job descriptions, policy and procedures and a health and safety manual were also listed as achievements.

McMahon also listed some of the issues that he felt still needed to be resolved. They included a decision on what to do with the approved infrastructure funding; the restructuring of the County Roads Department; support for the hospital recommendations; support for the forest owners regarding tax assessment; negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the winter lake trout fishery; and the encouragement of light industry within the county.

"I ask you to weigh your vote with care and gravity and to ignore any pre-conceived conceptions or perceptions or partisan geography and join with every member of council to elect Jim McMahon as warden for Haliburton county for a second and final term," he appealed.

McMahon added that many changes

(more on page 3)



Two young performers in their Sunday best, share a secret as they watch the annual Christmas concert Wednesday at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. For more photos from the evening, see page 6. This edition also includes the Christmas greeting section featuring the words and pictures of the students at the school.

Motion draws mixed reaction

by Jerry Grozelle

What's important to some is redundant to others. That was the case with a motion presented by Acting Health Services Board member Ted Wilkes at last week's meeting of the board.

Wilkes introduced a motion, basically reaffirming the resolution passed by the board on October 12, but adding a second part which welcomes the Ministry of Health's support, in principle, for the motion and expressing a need "to define the configurations of the two health

centres based on the need for services and current funding allocations."

Board members spent more than an hour debating the pros and cons of Wilkes' motion. Clearly, many of the board members felt there was no need for the motion. Len Wilson termed it redundant. Barbara Dawson, said that she resented being put in a position of having to vote on such a motion because "it forces us to do something we don't want to do."

There was also some concern that the credibility of the board in the eyes of the minis-

try may be in jeopardy if new resolutions reaffirming the content of previous motions continue to be passed.

Wilkes insisted that it was necessary to confirm the ministry's support of the entire October 12 resolution to satisfy the people who will have to be approached to raise the county's share of the funding. He steadfastly refused to withdraw his motion and called for a recorded vote.

Board chair Stuart Baker summed up his opinion of the motion by stating that he felt

(more on page 3)

Next edition appears Friday

With the Holiday season upon us, there will be some changes in the publication schedule of *The Times*. Our next edition will be published on Friday, December 23. It will be delivered to area post offices and stores on that date. Deadlines for that issue of the newspaper will be Wednesday December 21 at 4 p.m. *The Times* office will be closed Friday December 23 and Monday and Tuesday December 24 and 25.

The following edition of *The Times* will appear on Tuesday January 2, with the usual deadlines. The office will be closed on Monday January 1.

Everyone at *The Times* extends best wishes for the Holiday Season.



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